

## CLAIMS

We Claim

1. A digital video recorder-controller apparatus (DVRC) comprising:
  - a network port for communicatively connecting the DVRC with at least one other apparatus on a network;
  - wherein the DVRC is adapted to transmit through the network port a first selection of digitized video signals, wherein the first selection can include one or more digitized video signals being transmitted to a first other apparatus on the network;
  - and wherein the DVRC is further adapted to receive through the network port a second selection of digitized video signals, wherein the second selection can include one or more digitized video signals being transmitted by a second other apparatus on the network;
  - wherein the DVRC is adapted to facilitate designation of the digitized video signals of the second selection.
2. The DVRC of claim 1, further comprising an integrated control panel having dedicated function buttons adapted to facilitate selecting one or more video signals of the first selection and of the second selection.
3. The DVRC of claim 1 further comprising an external control port, adapted to facilitate selecting one or more video signals of the first selection and of the second selection.

1 4. The DVRC of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of video-out ports adapted to  
2 display one or more video signals derived from the first selection or from the second  
3 selection; and wherein the DVRC is adapted to record one or more video signals of the  
4 second selection of digitized video signals.

1 5. The DVRC of claim 1, wherein the first other apparatus is a second DVRC on the  
2 network.

1 6. The DVRC of claim 1, wherein the second other apparatus is a digital video recorder  
2 (DVR).

1 7. The DVRC of claim 1, wherein the network port is an ethernet port.

1 8. The DVRC of claim 1, wherein the DVRC is further adapted to transmit a first control  
2 signal to the second other apparatus, wherein the first control signal designates the one or  
3 more video signals of the second selection of digitized video signals to be transmitted by  
4 the second other apparatus.

1 9. The DVRC of claim 8, wherein the second other apparatus is a second DVRC operating  
2 in slave-mode on the network.

1 10. The DVRC of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of Analog video-in ports for  
2 receiving one or more video signals to be digitized to become one or more digitized video  
3 signals.

1 11. The DVRC of claim 1, further comprising at least one digital video-in port, for receiving  
2 one or more digitized video signals.

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1 12. A digital video system comprising:  
2 a network;  
3 a first plurality of video cameras operatively connected to a digital video recorder-  
4 controller apparatus (DVRC) on the network, the DVRC having:  
5 a first network port for communicatively connecting the DVRC with at least one  
6 other apparatus on the network;  
7 a first plurality of video-out ports adapted to facilitate the display of one or more  
8 video signals on one or more DVRC monitors;  
9 wherein the DVRC is adapted to receive through the first network port a first  
10 selection of digitized video signals including one or more digitized video signals transmitted by a  
11 first other apparatus on the network; and  
12 a second plurality of video cameras operatively connected to a digital video recorder  
13 (DVR) on the network, the DVR having:  
14 a second plurality of video-out ports adapted to facilitate the display of one or  
15 more video signals on one or more DVR monitors;  
16 a second network port for communicatively connecting the DVR with the DVRC  
17 on the network;  
18 wherein the DVR is adapted to transmit through the second network port a second  
19 selection of digitized video signals, wherein the second selection of digitized video signals  
20 includes one or more digitized video signals of the first selection of digitized video signals.

1 13. The digital video recording system of claim 12, wherein at least one video camera of the  
2 first plurality of video cameras is an Analog video camera, and at least one video camera  
3 of the second plurality of video cameras is an Analog video camera.

1 14. The digital video system of claim 13, wherein the DVR is the first other apparatus on the  
2 network.

1 15. The digital video system of claim 14, wherein the DVRC is adapted to output through the  
2 DVRC's first plurality of video-out ports one or more of the digitized video signals of the  
3 second selection of digitized video signals.

1 16. The digital video system of claim 14, wherein the DVRC is adapted to record and store  
2 one or more of the digitized video signals of the second selection of digitized video  
3 signals.

- 1 17. A method for expanding a digital video system comprising:
- 2 a) providing a first digital video recorder-controller apparatus (DVRC) having:
- 3 a DVRC network port;
- 4 at least one control panel;
- 5 wherein the first DVRC is adapted to receive through the DVRC network port a
- 6 selection of digitized video signals; and
- 7 a plurality of DVRC video-out ports adapted to facilitate the display of one or
- 8 more video signals on one or more video monitors.
- 1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein providing a DVRC includes modifying internal
- 2 software of a DVR.
- 1 19. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
- 2 b) providing a network and connecting the first DVRC to the network; and
- 3 c) connecting a digital video recorder (DVR) to the network, the DVR having;
- 4 a plurality of DVR video-in ports, for receiving video signals from video cameras;
- 5 a DVR network port;
- 6 wherein the DVR is adapted to transmit through the DVR network port a DVR
- 7 selection of digitized video signals, wherein the DVR selection of digitized video signals can
- 8 include one or more digitized video signals of the first selection of digitized video signals.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein c) is repeated by connecting additional DVRs to the  
2 network, whereby the digital video system is expanded to include at least one DVRC and  
3 a plurality of DVRs, each DVR having:  
4 a plurality of DVR video-in ports, for receiving video signals from video cameras;  
5 a DVR network port;  
6 wherein each DVR is adapted to transmit through its DVR network port a DVR  
7 selection of digitized video signals, wherein each DVR selection of digitized video signals can  
8 include one or more digitized video signals of the first selection of digitized video signals; and  
9 wherein the first DVRC transmits through the network a control signal to one or more of  
10 the plurality of DVRs.